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12/26/96

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: van der Laan, *et al.*

Serial No.: 07/565,673

Filed: August 10, 1990

For: **EFFICIENT PRODUCTION OF
MUTANT PROTEASES**

) Examiner: K. Hendricks

) Art Unit: 1814

) **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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This response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 4, 1996, and is submitted on or before January 4, 1997, the time period for response having been extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time and the requisite fee. Reconsideration and re-examination are requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to make the following amendments.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said *Bacillus* strain host is *Bacillus novo* species PB92 or a derivative thereof [which is incapable of reversion and contains a mutant high alkaline protease].

5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said *Bacillus* strain host is an asporogenic alkalophilic *Bacillus* strain.

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on-

December 20, 1996

Signature:

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Lydia Stough

LYDIA STOUGH